

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G11B20/12 G11B20/18

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G11B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1997, no. 06, 30 June 1997 (1997-06-30) -& JP 09 035418 A (RICOH CO LTD), 7 February 1997 (1997-02-07) abstract	1,10,11
A	US 6 327 674 B1 (ITO SEIGO ET AL) 4 December 2001 (2001-12-04) abstract column 1, line 5 - column 2, line 22 column 5, line 27 - column 8, line 56 figures 1-4 ----- -/--	1,10,11



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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* & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

16 December 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

20/01/2005

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>EP 0 866 456 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRONICS CORP) 23 September 1998 (1998-09-23) abstract column 1, line 5 - column 2, line 23 column 9, line 48 - column 14, line 6 figures 1,2</p>	1,10,11
P,A	<p>EP 1 420 403 A (RICOH KK) 19 May 2004 (2004-05-19) abstract paragraphs '0001! - '0036! figures 7-9</p>	1,10,11

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